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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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James Harold Gray

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AT&T Legal Department - SZ

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EXAMINER

PENG, FRED H

ART UNIT

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2426

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/735,346	Applicant(s) GRAY ET AL.	
	Examiner FRED PENG	Art Unit 2426	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-18,20-23,25,27-30 and 32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-18,20-23,25,27-30 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to an AMENDMENT entered 08/04/2010.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1, 3-18, 20-23, 25, 27-30 and 32 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 3-18 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matz (US 7,212,979) and Grauch et al, (US 6,983,478) incorporated by reference by Matz.

Regarding claims 1, 3, 9 and 11, Matz teaches a method of capturing clickstream data related to viewing content, comprising:

receiving the content from a distribution network; receiving click-stream data at a viewer appliance communicating with the distribution network, the click-stream data describing at least subscriber actions that control the viewer appliance and an identifier of a viewer who generated the command (FIG.1, -124; Col 6 lines 15-44; an identifier of a viewer who generated the command is inherent);

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establishing communication from the viewer appliance to a remotely located component (Col 6 lines 26-30; the set top box establishing communication with a database remotely located at the head end);

when a viewer action commands a channel change in the viewer appliance, then remotely executing the viewer action to a new stream of programming at a central switch (Col 5 line 65 - Col 6 line 30; a date-time identifier indicating a program has been provided for a subscriber suggests a channel change in the viewer appliance such as video on demand (VOD), then remotely executing the viewer action to a new stream of programming from the local/national content database via a central switch; VOD as a click event as disclosed in Col 6 lines 18-27 of Grauch; a central switch is inherent for VOD application); and

when the viewer action is not the channel change, then locally executing the viewer action at the viewer appliance (such as channel up/down or volume control or play local devices; Col 6 line 18 – Col 7 line 67 of Grauch); and

altering an aspect of the content being provided to the viewer; therefore, sending an indication that the command has been executed (Col 6 lines 26-44—change to a new channel or web access).

Regarding claim 4, Matz teaches wherein concurrently forwarding the clickstream data comprises concurrently forwarding the clickstream data to a storage device (Fig. 1--128 and 132; col. 6, lines 61-62--subscriber content-choice database; col. 7, lines 45-51--subscriber information database).

Regarding claim 5, Matz teaches matching the clickstream data to a present context and concurrently forwarding the matching to the storage device (col. 6, lines 45- 62; col. 8, line 52-co1.9, line 14).

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Regarding claim 6, Matz teaches determining a result of the clickstream data relative to a present context and concurrently forwarding the result to the storage device (col. 6, lines 45-62; col. 8, line 52-co1.9, line 14--determine category).

Regarding claims 7 and 16, Matz teaches wherein receiving the clickstream data at the viewer appliance comprises receiving the clickstream data at a set-top box (Fig. 1--Set-top box 124), and concurrently forwarding the clickstream data from the set-top box to a video control system (Fig. 1--Cable Operator Head-end 102).

Regarding claim 8, Matz teaches generating targeted advertising based upon the clickstream data (col. 12, line 63-co1.13, line 11- targeted advertisement).

Regarding claim 10, Matz teaches wherein executing the clickstream data comprises selecting a volume (data event comprising volume control; Col 6 line 18 – Col 7 line 67 of Grauch).

Regarding claim 12, Matz teaches matching the clickstream data to a present context and including the matching in the clickstream data that is forwarded (col. 6, lines 40-44--date-time stamp).

Regarding claim 13, Matz teaches matching the command to a current time when the command is received (col. 6, lines 40-44--date-time stamp).

Regarding claim 14, Matz teaches determining the result of the command relative to a present context (col. 6, lines 26-44--date-time stamp).

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Regarding claim 15, Matz teaches wherein determining the result of the command comprises determining an audio format (command comprising volume control; Col 6 line 18 – Col 7 line 67 of Grauch).

Regarding claim 17, Matz teaches choosing content based upon the command (col. 6, lines 40-44--"channel up" and "channel down" actions read on choosing content).

Regarding claims 18 and 23, Matz teaches a system with corresponding method of capturing a user command from a viewer that is related to viewing content, comprising:

receiving the content from a distribution network at a viewer appliance;

receiving the user command and an identifier of a viewer who generated the user command and a time at which a switch received the commands (Col 6 lines 23-44; Col 7 lines 9-21; a record of that click for a viewer is stored in a database inherently including an identifier of a viewer; a time stamp along with the click action is stored in the database suggests a time at which a switch received the commands as two-way digital cable network or DSL network inherently includes a switch);

establishing communication from the viewer appliance to a remotely located component (Col 6 lines 26-30; the set top box establishing communication with a database remotely located at the head end); and immediately forwarding the command upon receipt through the distribution network to the remotely located component (col. 6, lines 15-44); and

a control mechanism that locally executes the commands in parallel with the transfer mechanism (col. 6, lines 15-44; channel up or down in parallel with the transfer) when a command is not a channel change, and the control mechanism awaiting remote execution of the command when the command is a channel change to control an aspect of the content being provided to the viewer (when select a VOD program, the command is forwarded to central switch for execution; as the same grounds of rejection as analyzed and described as for claim 1); and

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continuing to store information related to the user command at viewer appliance after the user command has been executed (col. 7, lines 22-25).

Regarding claim 20, Matz teaches wherein the reception mechanism and the transfer mechanism are included in a set top box (Fig. 1--124; col. 6, lines 26-30).

Regarding claim 21, Matz teaches wherein the control mechanism is included in the set top box (Fig. 1--Set-top box 124; col. 6, lines 26-30).

Regarding claim 22, Matz teaches wherein the transfer mechanism concurrently forwards the clickstream data to a video control system located remotely from the premises of the viewer (Fig. 1--Cable Operator Head-end 102; col. 6, lines 26-30).

Regarding claim 24, Matz teaches executing the user command at the premises of the viewer (col. 6, lines 40-44--"channel up" and "channel down").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 25, 27-30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matz (US 7,212,979) and Grauch et al, (US 6,983,478) incorporated by reference by Matz.

Regarding claim 25, Matz discloses all the limitations as in claim 1; Matz further discloses transmission of user's action to the head end and stored in the database for record keeping

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purposes (Col 6 lines 15-23) but is not clear about eliminating local storage of the command at the viewer appliance and immediately upon receipt concurrently forward the command.

Using a server as a central storage for applications so as to simplify the client design to save the cost is well known in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to eliminate local storage of the command at the viewer appliance and immediately upon receipt concurrently forward the command to take advantage of less memory for storage as an engineering choice, thus save cost for client devices.

Regarding claim 27, Matz teaches concurrently forwarding the user command comprises concurrently forwarding the user command to a remote storage device (FIG.1, 122, 112; Col 5 lines 44-52).

Regarding claim 28, Matz teaches matching the user command to a present context (Col 4 lines 49-55; relates a purchase to an advertisement).

Regarding claim 29, Matz teaches determining a result of the user command relative to the present context (Col 4 lines 41-55).

Regarding claim 30, Matz teaches generating targeted advertising based upon information related to the user command (Col 4 lines 41-55).

Regarding claim 32, Matz teaches concurrently forwarding the user command as a control message (Col 7 lines 1-8; program selection is a control message).

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Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-18, 20-23, 25, 27-30 and 32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Claims 1, 3-18, 20-23, 25, 27-30 and 32 are rejected.

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Correspondence Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRED PENG whose telephone number is (571)270-1147. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 09:30-19:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hirl can be reached on (571) 272-3685. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from

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either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Fred Peng/

Examiner, Art Unit 2426

/Joseph P. Hirl/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2426

October 12, 2010